

Minutes of a meeting of Little Chalfont Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 8pm
in the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Members present: Cllr M Crowe (Chairman), Cllr B Gallagher, Cllr N Henry-Ames, Cllr C Ingham, Cllr D Nussbaum and Cllr V Patel.

In attendance: J Mason

Members of the public: 1 member of the public was present. He was welcomed to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Cllr C Holmes, Cllr D Silverstone and Cllr J Walford.
2. **Resolution that standing orders be suspended:** No members of the public wished to speak.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th June 2022:** These were received, approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
5. **Approval by Chairman of Items for Any Other Business:** Cllr Henry-Ames proposed a brief discussion on reporting overgrown hedges. This was the only item raised and was approved.
6. **Chairman's Report:** This had been previously circulated to and received by councillors.
7. **Clerk's Report:** This had been previously circulated to and received by councillors.
8. **Reports, as appropriate, from members of outside bodies and working parties:** No reports had been received.
9. **Financial matters:**
List of payments 13 July 2022 to be approved – this was reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.
10. **To discuss a potential project for the CIL payment the Parish Council has received:** Cllr Ingham reminded the council of the £10, 532 CIL payment to the parish council, which, as explained at the last meeting, was available for an infrastructure-related project. Ideas contributed so far by councillors included improved CCTV at Westwood Park, a new picnic table in the Nature Park, a community bus or cycle racks. It was agreed that there was no hurry for a decision and that further ideas were needed, including perhaps something for schools or the doctor's surgery. Cllr Ingham was personally in favour of some kind of donation which would bring good publicity to the council and involve no continuing management or contracting responsibility for the clerks. Cllr Henry-Ames agreed to take on responsibility for progressing this issue and collecting ideas for further consideration by **the council**.
11. **To discuss possible installation of CCTV at Westwood Park:** Cllr Crowe reminded **councillors** about the recent incident at Westwood Park when safety glass had been vandalised. It would be appropriate, therefore, to undertake a review of the risk mitigation measures already in place. Following a short discussion, it was **agreed** that Cllr Crowe should, in liaison with the Parish Clerk, follow up on the possible options available and associated costs with a view to reporting back to a future meeting. It was also noted that ATC staff had advised of success in deterring vandalism and other anti-social behaviour on their sites by the installation of ANPR cameras by entrances.

- 12. **Park Ranger update:** Following previous informal discussion, Cllr Crowe advised he was in favour of exploring the concept of employing a Park Ranger for possibly two days a week to deal with matters at Westwood Park, the Nature Park and other locations around the village. Cllr Ingham expressed some concern about the added workload of employing another member of staff. Following further discussion, it was **agreed** that the concept should be investigated further and proposals brought forward at a future meeting of the council.
- 13. **Any other business:** Overgrown hedges obstructing the highway – Cllr Henry-Ames reported that complaints had been received from certain members of the public. This was because some time lags had occurred between requests by ward councillors for letters to be sent, asking property owners to cut back hedges, and the date such letters were actioned. In some cases, the hedges in question had been cut back by the time the letter was received. It was noted that the system of letters been sent from the office had been introduced to replace the need for councillors to post pro formas through letter boxes at the time of inspection. Councillors present felt they had no problem with posting letters themselves in future. Councillors also discussed the fact that sometimes there was a delay in their being able to report findings to the office. Also, reporting often clashed with the end of year accounts preparation and audit procedures. It was **agreed** that Cllr Henry-Ames should discuss the issue with the Parish Clerk, with a view to reviewing and revising the procedure, for discussion at a future meeting. Councillors also noted that hedges owned by the Parish or Buckinghamshire Councils should be reported to the Parish Clerk for actioning.
- 14. The council **approved** a resolution that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and be instructed to withdraw. (The items are confidential because they deal variously with contractual and legal matters.)
- 15. **Lodge update from Cllr Ingham:** Cllr Ingham reported that, after prolonged discussion with PainSmith solicitors, a draft document extending the lease for 13 years on the conditions agreed with ATC in April had been received from PainSmith and forwarded by the Clerk to ATC on 6 July for their comments. Cllr Ingham expected that ATC might have difficulty with some of the wording in the document and expected the negotiation process to continue for some time before the current lease extension ends on 1 October. The report on repairs provided by the Clerk was noted, and a further report requested on whether full external redecoration had been completed.
- 16. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....